

**Alectoris graeca koroviakovi** (Zarudny). Chukar or Rock-Partridge.

1 ♂ ? Kamard valley, near Jajarud, 15 miles N.E. of Tehran. January.

These two birds were within a few miles of one another and it seems strange that they should belong to two separate races.

**Ammoperdix griseogularis griseogularis** (Brandt). Seesee Partridge.

2 ♂ ♀ 20 miles S.E. of Tehran. December 26.

This seems to be the race inhabiting the Elburz mountains and the vicinity of Tehran. Around Shiraz I think the bird is different and must be *A. g. termulemi*. Zar & Loudon. I saw a family party of parents and several newly hatched chicks on the Tirak pass, between Mubarakabad and the Lar valley, on the 28th July.

**Perdix perdix canescens** Buturlin. Common Partridge.

1 15 miles E. of Tehran. Dec. 6. Fairly common in winter from here northward. The local name is *chil* or *kabk-i-chil*. It is a distinctly pale race.

**Coturnix coturnix coturnix** (Linnaeus). Quail.

1 ♂ near Safid-Ab in the Lar valley. July 13.

I shot two quail but only found one: they were in the lush grass in an open space watered by an overflow of water from the river. 7,000 ft. A sportsman informs me that quail breed at Kermanshah and at Hamadan.

**Phasianus colchicus talyschensis** Lorenz. Pheasant.

These birds are resident in Gilan and Mazanderan, and are often sent up to Tehran for sale from these provinces. They vary in colour a great deal. The Persian word for them is *Qarqadvul*, or in Gilan *turing*.

## THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ROSY PASTOR IN INDIA

[*Pastor roseus* (L.)]

BY

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(With a map)

The Rosy Pastor is well known as a non-breeding winter visitor to India and as a two-way passage migrant in the N.W. and in the Punjab. It enters and leaves India on a restricted front between the foot of the Himalayas and Central Baluchistan, travels over the high ground of North Baluchistan, Central and Northern Afghanistan and Persian Khorasan to the south-east corner of the Caspian Sea. Its breeding grounds lie in Russian Turkestan and westward to Turkey and beyond in S.E. Europe, normally as far west as Hungary. Beyond Indian limits it provides one of the most remarkable instances of east to west migration known among birds.

An attempt to determine its status and movements in the rest of India revealed a glaring paucity of information, and a circular inquiry was published in the *Journal* (Vol. 45, p. 228) as well as in the military news sheet *Contact* in an effort to collate fresh

information and to have a clearer idea of its movements. There has been some response from members and others, but unfortunately all this information comes mostly from the Punjab, where its position is fairly clear. In a fresh effort to collect more information, the data now available is here summarized.

There is a solitary record of a male obtained at Lahul in Tibet on 1st July (*Ibis* 1925, p. 170) and another was seen on 6th July 1946 near Taklakot, 13,000, W. Tibet (Sálim Ali, *J.B.N.H.S.*, 46, p. 300). Stragglers occasionally occur in Kashmir, but the late Mr. Hugh Whistler has recorded (*Ibis* 1926, p. 579 and 1930, p. 105) that the migration passes into India south of the Kangra Valley and also misses the Rawalpindi District in North Punjab. Southwards through Peshawar, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Lahore, Ferozpur, Patiala, Saharanpur, Amballa and Delhi it is exceedingly common on passage, the autumn migration commencing early in July, reaching its peak towards the end of July and petering out in September, (Lt.-Col. J. A. L. Cowie (*in epist.*) saw the last birds at Lahore on 8th September. They were in attendance on grass cutters). The return passage makes itself felt towards the end of March and is most pronounced during the first half of April. By the end of April they are gone, though a few may be seen early in May. In autumn and spring, birds are observed moving south-eastwards and north-westwards respectively. Major General Hutson has recently dealt in detail with the status of this bird around Delhi and has noted them feeding on the berries of *Salvadora persica* and on the black berries of *Capparis sepiaria* (*Ibis* 1945, pp. 275-279. In *J.B.N.H.S.* ix (p. 66) is a reprint of a note by E. C. Cotes on the Food of the Rosy Pastor first published by the Indian Museum. It is said to do a large amount of destruction to locusts of which many more are killed than eaten.

In Sind, Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Province, the position is almost identical, and is dealt with by Ticehurst (*Ibis* 1922, pp. 616-618). It first makes its appearance in the Quetta Valley about the middle of July and passes through *en masse* in early August. Large flocks again appear in April and the birds are seen upto the middle of May. Ticehurst specifically states that it does not winter in British Baluchistan but that stray birds are seen on the Mekran coast. Currie (*J.B.N.H.S.* xxiv, p. 564) in his notes from Lahore confirms the two-way passage migrations and says that 'scattered flocks may be met with throughout the cold weather' and this is perhaps the correct status for the areas already dealt with. At Bahawalpur Major Atkinson (*in epist.*) says they are found in great abundance from about the middle of July to October when the dates are ripening and the Bajra is in seed. It returns (Sir R. M. Crofton, I.C.S. *in epist.*) in large numbers in the second week of April, being chiefly interested in pipal fruit and wheat gleanings. Ralph Stokoe (*in epist.*) found it common in Jaipur on 7-9th October, 1945.

There is general agreement among all observers that more immature birds appear in autumn, and Magrath (*Ibis* 1909, p. 131) in his notes from Kohat maintains that 'immature birds stay as late as November.' Currie notes that the autumn migration is

more leisurely and observers are also agreed that when the return migration reaches its peak, there appears to be an attendant increase in the intensity of purpose in the movement. In spring, the movements in the north-western area coincide with the ripening of mulberries and corn.

Moving southwards, Sálím Ali in Kutch noted them on his arrival there on 5 August, and was informed that they had already been there for about a fortnight. His notes indicate that large numbers were present on the 15th August, but thereafter, their numbers declined and were far fewer when he left Kutch on 3 October. On his return on the 3 March a few birds were present. They increased until large numbers were again seen on the 25 March all flying in a north-westerly direction. They were noted as partial to the fruit of *Cordia Rothii*, *Premna coriacea* (?) *Capparis aphylla*, *Salvadora persica* and *S. oleoides*, and were also devouring large numbers of caterpillars.

For the large area of Rajputana, Kathiawar, Central India, the Central Provinces and Peninsular India in general, we have only the statement made by numerous observers that it is a 'winter visitor'.

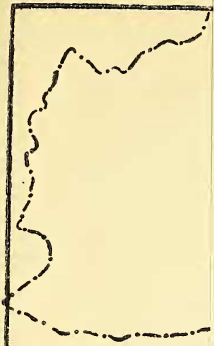
In the forested areas like Balaghat (D'Abreau, *J.B.N.H.S.* xxi, p. 1165) and Pachmarhi (Osmaston, *J.B.N.H.S.* xxviii, p. 455 'some flocks in spring'), the records appear to indicate their arrival much later than further westward. In Bhopal, Whitehead (*J.B.N.H.S.* xxi, p. 155) records that 'large flocks pour in as the Jowari ripens towards the end of November' and indicates the earliest date as 17 October. Sálím Ali had not noted them when he left Bhopal on 29 September though he records them in Gwalior on the flowers of *Butea frondosa* from early January upto the 16 April (*J.B.N.H.S.* xli, p. 99).

Briggs (*J.B.N.H.S.* xxxv, p. 389) at Mhow records several large flocks in March and also one in January, two in February, and four in April.

In Berar, Mrs. Wright (*J.B.N.H.S.* xliii, p. 434) classes it as a 'common winter visitor especially to the plains, first recorded on the 23rd September'. She adds that 'by the end of February when *Butea frondosa* was in full bloom their numbers appeared to increase. They were last seen on the 31st March when they disappeared suddenly'.

In Gujarat, Sálím Ali noted them commonly between 27th October and 30th March feeding largely on peepal figs, *Salvadora* berries and Jowar.

In Bombay, it ordinarily arrives in the middle of October (was noted on 20 August 1939, which was a drought year in Gujarat and Kathiawar, as also a pair in immature plumage on 28 August 46). Their numbers increase with the flowering of *Bombax* and *Erythrina* in January and they are abundant until mid-April. The fruit of *Mimusops hexandra* is also largely eaten. Jerdon (ii, p. 333) says it usually makes its appearance in the Deccan (where Burgess found them feeding on the flowers of the leafless caper) and Carnatic about November, associating in large flocks and committing great devastations on the grain fields, particularly



Baluchistan



Mekran Coast



